

2 17. (Five Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

first and second legs extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the

head, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and [an] a convex outer edge and terminates

5 at a rearward end, and wherein the inner edge of each leg includes a generally linear portion which intersects with the convex outer edge to define [adjacent] the rearward end of the leg, wherein the generally linear portions of the legs face each other, and wherein the inner edge of each leg further includes an outwardly curved concave arcuate portion adjacent the rearward end of the head extending toward the outer edge of the leg forwardly of the linear portion, wherein the outwardly curved concave arcuate portions of the leg inner edges cooperate to define a void area having a concave configuration between the legs rearwardly of the head, wherein each leg defines a first width adjacent the head and a second width greater than the first width at a location rearwardly of the void area.

3 18. (Five Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

first and second legs extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the

head, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and an outer edge and terminates at a

5 rearward end, and wherein the outer edge of each leg has a generally convex shape defining a substantially continuous arc between the rearward end of the leg and a location spaced forwardly therefrom, and wherein each leg defines a first width adjacent the head and a second width greater than the first width at a location spaced rearwardly therefrom, and wherein the inner edges of the legs are configured to define a void area defining an open rearward portion forming a gap between the legs and defining a closed forward end having a concave configuration located rearwardly of the head, wherein the inner edges of the legs define facing rearward sections which extend in a forward-rearward direction located rearwardly of the void area, and wherein the rearward section of the inner edge of each leg intersects the outer edge to define the rearward end of each leg.

4 26. (Five Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:
a head defining a forward end of the artificial bait structure and having a
thickness; and

5 a pair of legs extending rearwardly from the head, wherein the legs are
configured such that each leg defines [an] a convex outer edge located laterally outwardly
relative to the head and such that the legs define facing inner edges, wherein the legs have
a thickness less than that of the head, and wherein each leg includes a forward portion
which defines a first width adjacent the head and a rearward portion which defines a
second width greater than the first width, and wherein the forward portions of the legs
10 define mirror image concave inner edges which diverge outwardly away from each other
rearwardly of the head and which converge toward each other forwardly of the leg
rearward portions, wherein the concave inner edges cooperate to define an opening
between the legs having a concave forward end and an open rearward end, wherein the
rearward portions of the legs define facing inner edge sections located rearwardly of the
15 opening which extend in a forward-rearward direction, and wherein each leg terminates at
an intersection of the convex outer edge with one of the facing inner edge sections.

129. (Four Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:

3 a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and
a rear section extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the head,
wherein the rear section defines an opening having a closed concave forward end and an
5 open rearward end, wherein the closed forward end of the opening is defined by a concave
edge, and wherein the rear section defines a pair of legs located on opposite sides of the
opening, wherein each leg defines a forward end and a rearward end spaced rearwardly
from the forward end, wherein each leg, throughout at least a portion of its length
rearwardly of its forward end, includes a convex outer edge and defines an increasing
10 width in a forward-to-rearward direction such that at least a portion of each leg located
toward the leg rearward end has a width greater than a portion of each leg located toward
the leg forward end, wherein each leg defines a maximum width location rearwardly of the
opening, and wherein the legs are separated from each other by the opening and the open
rearward end of the opening, and wherein the concave edge defining the closed forward
15 end of the opening defines inner facing edges of the legs, and wherein the legs define

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facing inner edge sections which extend in a forward-rearward direction located rearwardly of the opening, and wherein the rearward end of each leg is defined by an intersection of the convex outer edge of the leg with the facing inner edge section of the leg.

*19*²². (Four Times Amended) An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

first and second legs extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the

head, wherein each leg defines a forward end interconnected with the head and a rearward

5 end spaced rearwardly from the forward end, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and

[an] a convex outer edge, and wherein the inner edge of each leg includes a concave

arcuate outwardly curved portion toward the forward end of each leg and a rearward

section which extends in a forward-rearward direction rearwardly of the concave arcuate

portion, wherein the concave arcuate portions of the inner edges of the legs cooperate to

10 define an opening between the legs toward the leg forward ends, and wherein the opening

defines a concave forward end and an open rearward end which separates the rearward

ends of the legs, and wherein the convex outer edge of each leg defines an arcuate outward

curvature extending rearwardly of the head and intersecting the rearward section of the

inner edge of the leg to define [and terminating toward] the [leg] rearward end of the leg.

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Please add new claims 39 and 40 as follows.

*21*³⁹. An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head having a forward end and a rearward end; and

a rear section extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the head,

wherein the rear section defines an opening having a closed concave forward end and an

5 open rearward end, wherein the closed forward end of the opening is defined by a concave

edge, and wherein the rear section defines a pair of legs located on opposite sides of the

opening, wherein each leg defines a forward end and a rearward end spaced rearwardly

from the forward end, wherein each leg, throughout at least a portion of its length

rearwardly of its forward end, defines an increasing width in a forward-to-rearward

10 direction such that at least a portion of each leg located toward the leg rearward end has a

width greater than a portion of each leg located toward the leg forward end, wherein each